

TRADITIONAL METHODS OF TEACHING BIOLOGY



By the end of the unit, the students should be able to:

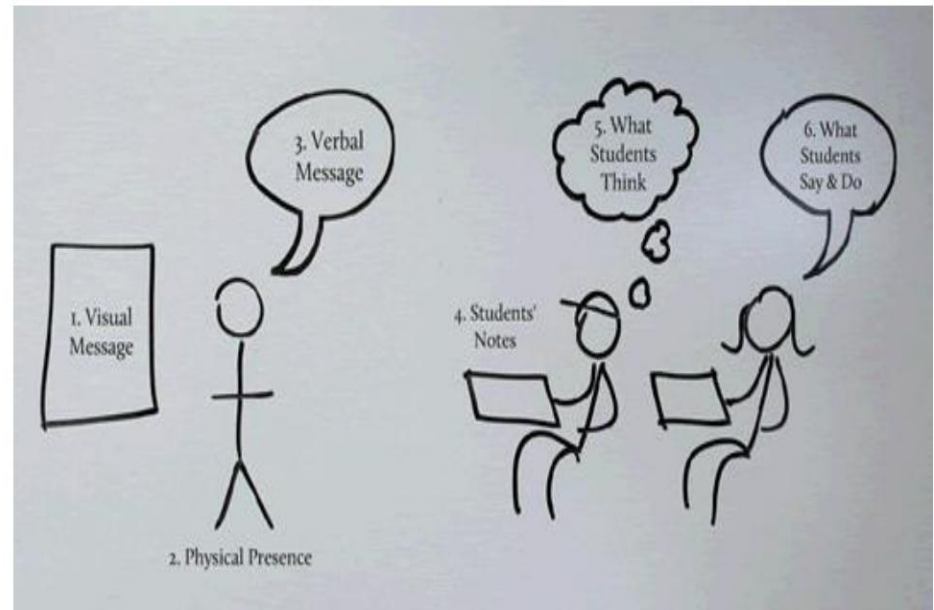
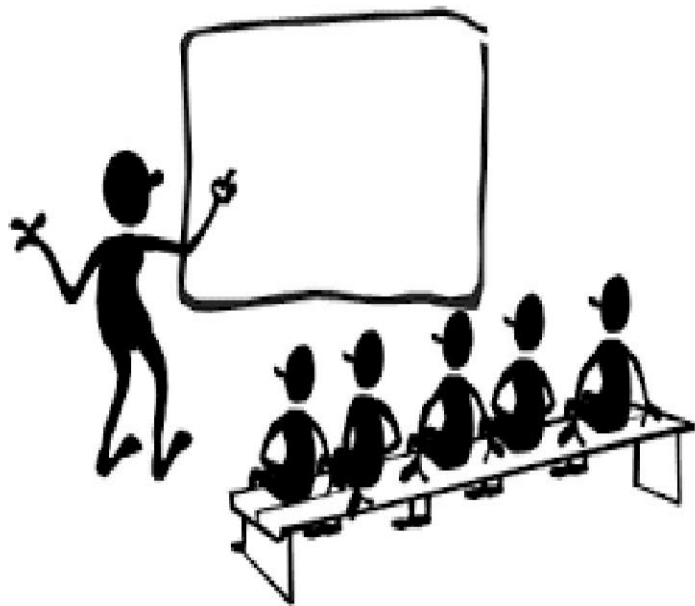
- ✓ *Explain the lecture method*
- ✓ *Explain Discussion method*
- ✓ *Explain the term Field Trip and excursions*

The teaching of biology requires; the teacher should be knowledgeable in the various methods and strategies for teaching the subject.



LECTURE METHOD IN BIOLOGY TEACHING

- ✓ The use of lecture method entails a one way flow of communication from the teacher to the students
- ✓ It is a teacher-centred or teacher dominated approach.
- ✓ Most of the talking is carried out by the teacher while the students remain as passive listeners taking down notes.



IT IS REFERRED TO AS DIDACTIC APPROACH OR TALK-CHALK.

ADVANTAGES OF LECTURE METHOD

- ✓ Less time is required on the part of the teacher in preparing for his lessons since no materials are needed in the process.
- ✓ It is cheap to operate.
- ✓ It is a good method for delivering large amount of knowledge in a short time. i.e. it leads to a very high content coverage.
- ✓ It can be used to handle large classes.
- ✓ It can be used to introduce new topics.
- ✓ It helps to channel the students thinking towards a particular direction.
- ✓ It helps the teacher to develop confidence in his teaching as a facilitator of knowledge.

DISADVANTAGES OF LECTURE METHOD

- ✓ Students are passive listeners and do not participate actively as the lesson progresses.
- ✓ Lecture method does not put into consideration the individual differences of the learners. This is because a class is made up of students with a wide range of intellectual abilities- high, medium and low.
- ✓ The non active participation of students does not provide the teacher with the opportunity to evaluate the students during the lesson period.
- ✓ With lecture method, the students do not practice communication skills.
- ✓ Lecture method is not very good for teaching certain concepts in biology that may require attitude and feelings of students.

- ✓ Lecture method encourages memorization of information (rote learning) without actually promoting meaningful understanding.
- ✓ It does not promote meaningful learning of biology concepts

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE USE OF LECTURE METHOD

- ✓ Lecture method should be use in junction with other methods of teaching. This will help to enhance students' participation in the lesson.
- ✓ As much as possible, avoid coverage of too many topics, which may lead to boredom and tend to confuse the students.
- ✓ Encourage active participation of students in class through asking questions and giving them opportunity to make comments.
- ✓ At the end of each lesson period, the teacher should summarize the key points

DISCUSSION METHOD IN BIOLOGY TEACHING



- ✓ Discussion can be seen as talking over something from various points of view.
- ✓ Discussion usually involves a group of people.
- ✓ Under a classroom setting, discussion is an interactive process involving the teacher and the students or among the students themselves
- ✓ In this case, a problem or topic for the lesson is presented for discussion while the teacher helps to direct their views towards the lesson objectives.
- ✓ Discussion is different from lecture method. *While the lecture method is a one way flow of communication between the teacher and the students. Discussion involves a multiple flow of communication arising from the members of the group.*

ADVANTAGES OF DISCUSSION METHOD

- ✓ Discussion method encourages students learning through active participation in the classroom.
- ✓ It enables the teacher to have better knowledge of his students abilities and attitudes.
- ✓ There is greater interpersonal relationship between the teacher and students and among students themselves.
- ✓ Discussion can lead to the development of leadership qualities.
- ✓ Discussion aids in problem solving.



DISADVANTAGES OF DISCUSSION METHOD

- ✓ Discussion method takes a considerable length of time. This is due to the fact that each student will be given opportunity to contribute to the discussion.
- ✓ In some cases, students may find it extremely difficult to contribute meaningfully to the discussion. This is as a result of poor background knowledge of the topic to be discussed.
- ✓ In terms of content coverage, discussion method does not lend itself to easy coverage of the syllabus.
- ✓ Some student who lacks background knowledge of most of the topics discussed may begin to be disinterested in the subject.
- ✓ Lack of student's participation in the discussion may reduce their understanding of the lesson.

SUGGESTION FOR THE EFFECTIVE USE OF FIELD TRIP

- ✓ The biology teacher should first discuss the idea of taking students on a field trip with the school authority for approval.
- ✓ Subsequently, she should write to the managing director (MD) if it involves an industry for permission to visit, time of the visit as well as the date of the visit. Finally request for any written rules guiding the place.
- ✓ Before the trip the biology teacher should then discuss with the students concerning the trip, the aim of the visit, materials to take along ego pen, pencil, exercise book, ruler etc.

- ✓ Furthermore, the teacher should inform the students about the rules guiding the place, possible dangers, things to look out for as well as method of reporting their observations.
- ✓ The teacher should make sure that the field experience fits properly into the instructional sequence.
- ✓ The biology teacher should carry first aid kit along in case of any accidents involving students.

1. *Define the following*

(a) *Lecture method in teaching biology*

(b) *Field method trip in teaching biology*

(c) *Project method in teaching biology*

(d) *Discussion method in teaching biology*

(e) *List five (5) advantages of project method of teaching biology*

2. *Describe how you can organise a successful field trip in your school*

THANK YOU

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